

ABSTRACT:

A method and system are provided which allow for automatic execution of applications on a receiving station (109). As applications may provide their own interface, this interferes with the desired consistent interface a user has when "zapping" from channel to channel. Therefore, execution of applications is disabled when a user selects a channel, and enabled whenever it is determined that the user is actively viewing the selected channel. This happens when, for example, the channel identifier (202) is removed from the screen, or the last element of a menu bar (203) or other on-screen display element is erased. A timer, reset whenever the user provides input, and increased every second, can also be used. When the timer exceeds a certain value, it can be assumed the user wants to view the selected channel, and application execution can be enabled.

Fig. 2